

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 768

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend John Allen for his exemplary service as the Putnam County Fair Board President.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is John Allen, the Putnam County Fair Board President and a leading light and example to his community; and

WHEREAS, over the last six years, Mr. Allen has pushed for excellence and the restoration of the fair into a broad-based community event; to that end, many agricultural education exhibits and events have been added to the fair, including a hog show, three horse shows, two roping events, and a herding dog competition. Participation has also increased in the sheep and goat shows and the dairy and beef shows; and

WHEREAS, the number of live demonstrations during the fair has increased from twenty to ninety, and the number of heritage exhibits has risen; the fair also continues to have rides, community crafts, and homemade goods for visitors to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, as a result, attendance has grown from 33,000 to 54,500 visitors over the past two years; single-day attendance has surpassed 10,000 people; and private support has grown substantially from \$14,000 to \$130,000; and

WHEREAS, John Allen has also overseen a number of improvements to the grounds, including new paint and lights and cleaner facility management, all while maintaining the quaint vintage charm of the original twentieth-century structures; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Allen's leadership, the Fair Board has grown from fifteen to twenty-five members, with an additional thirty-seven people who manage some aspect of the fair throughout the year; the Junior Fair Board has also grown from twelve to twenty-seven members with year-round training and activities; and

WHEREAS, John Allen has mentored the members of the Fair Board and Junior Fair Board to help them re-establish the Fair as one of the most well-run and successful operations in the State, utilizing each person's talents to the fullest potential and creating a positive environment for all who visit the fair; and

WHEREAS, he has spearheaded a new vision for the Putnam County Fair and has been integral in pushing for new grounds to expand the fair's offerings, add additional parking for visitors, and benefit the community and this State; and

WHEREAS, John Allen epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Allen for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend John Allen for his exemplary service as the Putnam County Fair Board President and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.